



# MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

## REAL-TIME INDUSTRY SUMMARY

### MAY 2026

#### 2025 STATEWIDE LABOR ANALYSIS

There were over 50,000 online job postings for the Manufacturing industry from January 2025 to December 2025. The top occupation was *Production Workers, All Other*, which made up 4.0 percent of total industry job postings for the time period.

**The employers with the most job postings were Boeing, Johnson & Johnson, Ford, Honeywell, and Simmons Prepared Foods.**

| TOP ONLINE JOB POSTINGS                                                                                                       |                                                        |                                    |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| SOC Code                                                                                                                      | Description                                            | Percent of total industry postings | Average Annual Wage |
| Now- requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma                           |                                                        |                                    |                     |
| 53-7062                                                                                                                       | Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand     | 2.8%                               | \$39,900 ★          |
| 43-4051                                                                                                                       | Customer Service Representatives                       | 1.3%                               | \$45,000 ★          |
| 43-5071                                                                                                                       | Shipping, Receiving, & Inventory Clerks                | 1.0%                               | \$43,520            |
| 53-7051                                                                                                                       | Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators                   | 0.7%                               | \$47,550            |
| 53-7064                                                                                                                       | Packers & Packagers, Hand                              | 0.6%                               | \$37,550            |
| Next- requires a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate-to long-term training |                                                        |                                    |                     |
| 51-9199                                                                                                                       | Production Workers, All Other                          | 4.0%                               | \$42,720            |
| 49-9071                                                                                                                       | Maintenance & Repair Workers, General                  | 3.2%                               | \$51,360 ★          |
| 41-4012                                                                                                                       | Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing       | 2.4%                               | \$74,740            |
| 53-3032                                                                                                                       | Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers                  | 2.3%                               | \$54,480 ★          |
| 51-9061                                                                                                                       | Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers     | 1.9%                               | \$55,630            |
| Later- requires a bachelor's degree or higher                                                                                 |                                                        |                                    |                     |
| 15-1252                                                                                                                       | Software Developers                                    | 2.7%                               | \$114,240 ★         |
| 17-2112                                                                                                                       | Industrial Engineers                                   | 2.5%                               | \$99,020            |
| 11-2022                                                                                                                       | Sales Managers                                         | 2.0%                               | \$122,340           |
| 15-1299                                                                                                                       | Computer Occupations, All Other                        | 1.8%                               | \$93,590            |
| 41-4011                                                                                                                       | Sales Representatives, Technical & Scientific Products | 1.8%                               | \$103,180           |

★ Denotes the top 10 occupations by total number of projected openings from 2022-2032 in Now, Next, and Later categories

#### EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Across the state, there are numerous programs in many locations that train for occupations in the Manufacturing industry. To find degree and certificate programs at an educational institution near you, visit [MoSCORES](#), a tool designed to assist job seekers, students, career counselors, educators, and planners with a better understanding of training options and typical work outcomes of graduates, for traditional degree programs as well as noncredit credentials. In addition, there are U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship programs for Manufacturing occupations in Missouri. Visit [Apprenticeship Missouri](#) for more information.

# TOP ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

## TOP 10 COMMON SKILLS

Communication  
Management  
Operations  
Leadership  
Customer Service  
Problem Solving  
Sales  
Detail Oriented  
Troubleshooting (Problem Solving)  
Mathematics

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Several soft skills, such as Communication, Leadership, and Customer Service, ranked in the top 10 common skills. Communication skills were found in 41 percent of total Manufacturing job postings.

## TOP 10 SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Continuous Improvement Process  
Project Management  
Lifting Ability  
Computer Science  
Auditing  
Chemistry  
Marketing  
Process Improvement  
Warehousing  
Machinery

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Top requested specialized skills included Continuous Improvement Process, Project Management, and Lifting Ability.

## TOP 10 SOFTWARE SKILLS

SAP Applications  
Python (Programming Language)  
Operational Data Store  
Operating Systems  
SQL (Programming Language)  
C (Programming Language)  
Salesforce  
C++ (Programming Language)  
Power BI  
AutoCAD

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Microsoft Office and its products, such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access, are the most requested software skills across all industries. Other skills requested in the Manufacturing industry include SAP Applications and Python.

## TOP 10 QUALIFICATIONS

Security Clearance  
Secret Clearance  
Valid Driver's License  
Master of Business Administration (MBA)  
Forklift Certification  
CDL Class A License  
Commercial Driver's License (CDL)  
Top Secret Clearance  
Top Secret-Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI Clearance)  
Project Management Professional Certification

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The top requested qualifications were security clearances and a Valid Driver's License.

### Sources:

- LightCast™
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, 2024
- 2022-2032 Employment Projections published by Missouri Economic Research and Workforce Information Center (MERIC), 2025

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